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LOVE **LOST...**

LOVE **RECOVERED**

The AMAZING TRUE STORY of
LAURENTIUS AND JACQUELINE KITINGAN



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INTRODUCTION TO THIS REPORT by Clarence Chan

This report contains the true testimony of my dear friends, Laurentius Kitingan and Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan. Laurentius is a Malaysian from a town called Tambunan, Sabah, East Malaysia. His older brothers are well-known politicians in the country. Jacqueline is an Australian from Melbourne, Australia. They met in Australia while both were students in university. This report is a transcript of Laurentius' and Jacqueline's testimony about how **God miraculously saved their marriage from disaster**, given at the Christmas service in Skyline SIB church in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah in 2002. **This report is to glorify God and to encourage you, the reader to trust in God to save your marriage.** And also, please do not miss the Epilogue at the end.

For more marriage-saving information, please visit
<http://www.savemarriagetoday.com>

Testimony of God's work¹

Background:

LAURENTIUS:

Hi, I'm Laurentius Kitingan, I come from Tambunan. And this is Jacqueline, my lovely and faithful wife who has stood by me all these years through thick and thin. We'd like to share with you what God has done in our lives

You probably know two of my more well-known elder siblings. I am the 8th in a family of 15 children.

Although I was brought up in a Christian family, I did not know Jesus then. In 1974, when studying in Australia on a Colombo Plan scholarship I came to know and trust Jesus as my Lord and Saviour as a result of the testimonies of a bikies group called God Squad.

The first couple of years were exciting. I joined the Overseas Christian Fellowship (OCF Brisbane) and attended Bible studies and fellowship for overseas students. During one of the Bible studies, I met Jacquie. We fell in love and got married. It was Jacquie who deepened my knowledge the Christian walk during Bible studies and discussions.

In 1979, after completing my Agricultural Science degree, we moved to Melbourne to do my masters while Jacquie wrote her PhD thesis.

JACQUIE :

Hello, I'm Jacquie, Laurentius'wife and I am a university lecturer. I was born in Melbourne into a Christian family. But it was not until 1966 when I gave my life to the Lord Jesus, that I became a Christian. Ten years later while doing my Doctoral research at the University of Queensland, I met Laurentius at an Overseas Christian Fellowship meeting.

I liked him from the start. He was the most genuine, open, trustworthy person I had met! He became my best friend, and we soon fell deeply in love. We were married in December 1976 in Brisbane. The following year, we made a brief trip back to Laurentius' village in Sabah where our marriage was celebrated with a traditional 3-day *moginakan* ceremonial feast. I was readily accepted by Laurentius' family, and felt very much at home in village life.

¹ By Laurentius & Jacqueline Kitingan, as of 20/12/2002 for Skyline SIB Christmas 2002

In 1980 our first son was born and in 1982 we returned permanently to Sabah with our 2-year old son. Laurentius found work in the Agriculture Department, I stayed at home to look after our son and we became active in SIB church. Although we did not have much, we were very happy. In 1983, however, our marriage troubles began.

LAURENTIUS:

The year 1983 was a very busy one for me. I left the government service for the private sector. Soon after, I fell into the temptations by women, money and position. In that year, I was involved in a brief fling with one of the female office staff. Although it was brief, it was the start of a deep grave that I had dug for myself. As money and position accumulated the grave became even deeper.

JACQUIE :

When Laurentius began the fling with his staff in 1983, I was absolutely devastated. I was then pregnant with our second child, caring for our little son, had no money or job, and was far away from my family in Australia. I had nowhere to turn. So I cried out to the Lord. Miraculously a couple of months before our daughter was born Laurentius stopped the fling. But things got better only temporarily.

LAURENTIUS:

Within two years I had fallen into immorality again. The next affair in 1985 was longer and far more serious. It lasted about two years and led me away from my family to live with another woman. After the affair ended, I returned to my family but I was weak and cared more for the pleasures of the flesh.

In 1988 I became entangled again with another woman, with whom I had a child. I ended the affair before the child was born 1990 but my life was now in deep trouble.

JACQUIE:

During this second affair of 1985, our third child Joel was born. He died less than 2 days after birth. It was a traumatic time for me but God was my refuge and strength throughout that time. When I came to know about the affair, I was extremely upset, but God led me into a deeper study of His Word and I began to pray and intercede for my husband. In 1986, I got a job as a researcher of traditional music under the Sabah Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Shortly after this the affair ended.

In 1988 Laurentius started another affair again which lasted two years. It was his third one. I was now helpless and too depressed to do anything about it. Our younger daughter and youngest son were born during these difficult years. I received very little

help from Laurentius and provided for the children largely out of my meager income. However I never once considered leaving him to return to Australia. This was because I loved him and because I also believed what the Bible said: **“A wife must not leave her husband.”**

LAURENTIUS:

The next ten years were the worst ones for me. In 1990 I entered a very long and traumatic affair that resulted in the birth of two children out of wedlock. In this relationship I lived away from my family for much of the time and although I tried to balance my time between the two families, it was hell. I was wracked by guilt. My business grew from bad to worse and I went into severe debt. The Bible says **‘There is a way that seems right for a person, but its end is the way to death.’** This is so true. I was trapped but could not end the affair because of my commitment to my mistress and children born to her. I cried to God. In the year 2000, this woman initiated an amicable permanent separation from me. She took custody of the kids and returned to her family in West Malaysia. I was now free. I became aware that Jacquie had been praying for me.

JACQUIE:

This last 10 year affair formed the worst years of my life—the loneliness, the hardships, the public humiliation. I struggled to bring up the children mostly alone. Although I was a civil servant, there were times when I did not receive my salary for months. Yet God always supplied our needs.

As the affair dragged on, however, I gradually gave up hope of ever having a normal loving marriage again. I often felt as if God had forgotten me. My faith was at its lowest. But the Bible says **‘If we are faithless, (God) remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.’** No, but God had not forgotten me. He came to our rescue. He broke the chains that bound our lives; He destroyed the curses and black magic used against us. He began to soften Laurentius’ heart again. So I tell you, never give up hope

LAURENTIUS:

My business and relationships were in a complete mess. I knew only God could put things right. Somehow, early this year, I started reading the Bible again. However, I told myself, if I am to return to God, it must not be based on emotion but through genuine repentance.

Jacquie continued to attend SIB Likas but I did not attend church. I was filled with guilt and condemnation and I was critical of church, thinking it was full of hypocrites.

Then one day, in August this year, Jacquie and I came to this church to meet some friends. Pastor Dr. Philip Lyn was preaching on ‘Jehovah Jireh, God our Provider’. He

talked about God being the provider of all our needs, giving us not only our spiritual needs but our earthly needs as well, according to His will and our faithfulness. The first step was that we need to be right with God and we need to make a start.

At that moment, the Holy Spirit touched me and urged me so strongly to go forward when Pastor Philip asked whoever wanted to recommit their lives to come to the front. So I took that step, the most important step, to confess my sins and rededicate my life to God that morning. I was amazed that I had the courage and the clarity of mind to make such a resolute decision to make my life right again with God. I praise and thank God for giving me a second chance to live a powerful Spirit-led life, and not a carnal life of lust and greed.

For you men out there, you may think that a man's ways are best, but actually, they are not. You may think you are in control but often it's our own selfish lust and pride that controls us. Our ways lead to death, but God's ways lead to life! And no matter how sinful we are, how desperate the situation, there is hope for you. Because today God has restored my marriage and family and given me hope to live again!

Epilogue (by Clarence Chan)

It has been five years since the time this testimony was given. A lot has happened but I am very pleased to inform you that God has continued to help Laurentius and Jacquie in their marriage. They more happily married now than ever before! In January 2008, they will celebrate the wedding of their eldest son, Nathanael. **Indeed, God is good!**

Final Note

If this Report has blessed you, please send me a short testimony of your own (4-5 sentences will do) and a photograph of yourself, if possible. With your permission, I will insert your testimony into my website so that more people can be encouraged. Please send it to clarence@savemarriagestoday.com.

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